

Message Text

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SPAIN

A. JUAN CARLOS' CURRENT THINKING

THE COUNT OF MOTRICO TOLD AMBASSADOR STABLER OCTOBER 25
THAT ON FRANCO'S DEATH THE COUNCIL OF THE REGENCY WILL
ACT AS HEAD OF STATE UNTIL JUAN CARLOS' INSTALLATION AS
KING FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF LYING IN STATE. JUAN
CARLOS:

--DOUBTS MOST WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WILL DISPATCH
HIGH LEVEL MOURNERS, BUT HOPES THEY AND THE US WILL
SEND CHIEFS OF STATE OR NEXT RANKING OFFICIALS TO
THE SUBSEQUENT CEREMONIES;

--PRESENTLY INTENDS TO APPOINT A CIVILIAN AS PRIME
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MINISTER AND A MILITARY MAN AS VICE PRESIDENT;

--RECEIVED WORD THAT DON JUAN WILL GIVE HIM QUIET MORAL AND PERSONAL SUPPORT BUT WOULD WITHHOLD POLITICAL BACKING UNTIL HE SAW WHAT CONCRETE STEPS HIS SON WAS TAKING TOWARD DEMOCRACY;

--MET WITH MILITARY LEADERS OCTOBER 24 TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE WAS NOW TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND TO RECONFIRM THEIR LOYALTY.

B. A SOCIALIST'S HOPES FOR THE POST-FRANCO PERIOD

IN AN OCTOBER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER, SOCIALIST WORKER PARTY LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ QUESTIONED JUAN CARLOS' RESOLVE IN IMMEDIATELY BREAKING WITH THE FORCES OF THE RIGHT AND LEADING SPAIN TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY SANGUINE ON PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSITION, GONZALEZ OPINED THAT:

--JUAN CARLOS PROBABLY WILL OPT FOR A POLICY OF TIGHTLY CONTROLLED EVOLUTION TOWARD AN EVENTUAL DEMOCRACY--THE OPTION THAT CARRIES THE GREATEST RISK OF DISRUPTION BY THE ULTRA-RIGHT.

--A LEGALIZED COMMUNIST PARTY COULD BE CONTROLLED WHEN A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC/SOCIALIST LEFT CAME TO DOMINATE A TRULY FREE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS (THE CLASSIC SOCIALIST POSITION).

--THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE A LIBERAL MILITARY MAN WITH INFLUENCE AND CREDIBILITY IN BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CIRCLES, AND SHOULD DISMANTLE A NUMBER OF FRANCO-ERA ORGANIZATIONS TO SHOW DOUBTERS HIS FORCEFULNESS AND COMMITMENT TO CHANGE.

--THE US SHOULD MAKE KNOWN ITS DESIRE FOR A RAPID TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, SINCE A SIZABLE SEGMENT OF SPANISH OPINION IS IN DOUBT ABOUT US PREFERENCES.

(CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7477, 10/25 (EXDIS) AND

(CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 7481, 10/26.

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2. SAUDI ARABIA

A. WARNS US ON ARMS FOR EGYPT

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN TOLD AMBASSADOR AKINS HE WAS SURPRISED TO READ OF REPORTS THAT THE US WOULD BE UNABLE TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT

UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT US ELECTIONS. SULTAN WARNED THAT
IF THE SALES DO NOT GO THROUGH:

--SAUDI ARABIA WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUPPORT
EGYPT, "NO MATTERWHERE IT TURNS."

--SADAT'S POSITION WOULD BE SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED
BY OUR REFUSAL TO SUPPLY EGYPT WITH ARMS NOW.

(SECRET) JIDDA 7187,10/26 (EXDIS).

B. APPROVAL FORTHCOMING FOR US ARMS PACKAGE TO
YEMEN

PRINCE SULTAN RESPONDED TO AMBASSADOR AKINS' REPORT OF
YEMENI CONCERN THAT THE SAUDIS ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET
ON THE ISSUE OF A US ARMS PACKAGE BY GIVING ASSURANCES
THAT THE SAUDIS ARE NOW PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH THE
PROJECT. THE ARMS PACKAGE, WHICH SULTAN DESCRIBED AS
"VERY LITTLE INDEED," WILL BE APPROVED FOLLOWING YEMENI
GENERAL GHAMSHI'S VISIT TO RIYADH, AND THERE WILL PROB-
ABLY BE A REQUEST FOR MORE US ARMS FOR THE YEMEN.

(SECRET) JIDDA 7188, 10/26.

3. ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION: STRONG PUBLIC REACTION IN
BRAZIL

EMBASSY BRASILIA REPORTS THAT THE BRAZILIAN VOTE FOR THE
UN ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION HAS EVOKED VEHEMENT MEDIA
COMMENT, WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN UNIFORMLY AND SHARPLY
NEGATIVE. THE PRESS SPECULATED THAT:

--THE FINAL DECISION FOR THE VOTE WAS MADE NOT BY
THE FOREIGN MINISTER BUT BY THE PRESIDENT.

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--THE ISRAELIS, WHILE "PAINFULLY SURPRISED" AT THE
BRAZILIAN VOTE, WERE MORE CONCERNED BY THE MEXICAN
AND CHILEAN VOTES, SINCE ISRAEL HAS REFRAINED FROM
CRITICIZING THE CHILEANS' HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND
MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA RECENTLY VISITED
ISRAEL. (UNCLASSIFIED) BRASILIA 9298, 10/24.

4. SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN MINISTER FORESEES RATIONAL
OUTCOME

MOROCCAN MINISTER OF COOPERATION BENHIMA TOLD ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ATHERTON THAT IT IS PROBABLE THAT MOROCCO WILL
MAKE RAPID PROGRESS IN WORKING OUT AN UNDERSTANDING WITH
SPAIN. HOWEVER, THE MARCH WILL HAVE TO PROCEED, PERHAPS

REDUCED TO A "SYMBOLIC" REPRESENTATION, WITH THE REST OF
THE MARCHERS REMAINING ON THE MOROCCAN SIDE OF THE
BORDER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BENHIMA INTIMATED THAT THE DECISION
FOR THE MARCH WAS MADE IN EARLY OCTOBER AND WAS KEPT A
SECRET BY ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. (SECRET) RABAT
5170, 10/25.

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5. AZORES INDEPENDENCE DRIVE MOVES AHEAD DELIBERATELY

CONSULATE PONTA DELGADA COMMENTS THAT THE JUNTA REGIONAL
HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN TWO MONTHS MORE THAN ANYONE EXPECTED.
IT IS WELL ON THE WAY TO ESTABLISHING STRONG DE FACTO
AUTONOMY. AMONG ITS CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THE JUNTA
HAS:

--GAINED AZOREAN CONTROL OF THE BANKING SYSTEM, A
MAJOR STEP IN ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC AUTONOMY;

--ESTABLISHED A REGIONAL PLANNING SYSTEM, WHICH MAY
HELP DISSOLVE INTER-ISLAND DIFFERENCES WHILE CON-
TRIBUTING TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

SEVERAL FLA LEADERS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY LISBON THAT INDE-
PENDENCE, WHILE INEVITABLE, IS UNLIKELY SOON. THE FLA
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IS PURGING ITS EMBARRASSING RIGHTWING ZEALOTS AND
ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A EUROPEAN, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PHILOSOPHY. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 6318, 10/25 (EXDIS)
AND (CONFIDENTIAL) PONTA DELGADA 413, 10/24. KISSINGER

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